

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method for the prophylaxis or protection of human skin against wrinkling, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compatible solute, which is of formula Ia or Ib



or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof,

R¹ is H or alkyl,
R² is H, COOH, COO-alkyl or CO-NH-R⁵,
R³ and R⁴ are each, independently of one another, H or OH,
n is 1, 2 or 3,
alkyl is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and
R⁵ is H, alkyl, an amino acid residue, a dipeptide radical or a tripeptide radical.

4-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the compatible solute

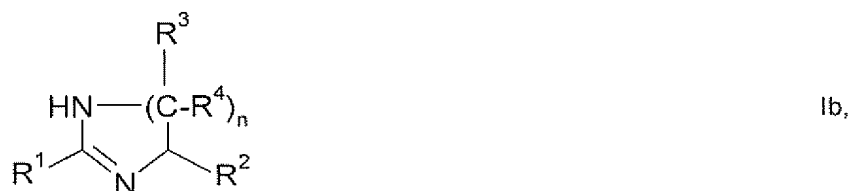
of formula Ia or Ib is in the form of a cosmetic, dermatological or pharmaceutical composition.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3, wherein the compound of formula Ia or Ib is (S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid or (S,S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the proportion of compatible solute of formula Ia or Ib in a composition administered is 0.001 to 50% by weight, based on the composition as a whole.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for the protection of the human skin against wrinkling, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compatible solute, which is of formula Ia or Ib



or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof,

R¹ is H or alkyl,

R² is H, COOH, COO-alkyl or CO-NH-R⁵,

R³ and R⁴ are each, independently of one another, H or OH,

n is 1, 2 or 3,
alkyl is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and
R⁵ is H, alkyl, an amino acid residue, a dipeptide radical or a tripeptide radical.

17-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3, wherein an isolated stereoisomeric form of a compound of formula Ia or Ib is administered.

21. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the compatible solute of formula Ia or Ib is in the form of a cosmetic, dermatological or pharmaceutical composition.

22. (New) A method according to claim 16, wherein the compound of formula Ia or Ib is (S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid or (S,S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid.

23. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the proportion of compatible solute of formula Ia or Ib in a composition administered is 0.001 to 50% by weight, based on the composition as a whole.

24. (New) A method according to claim 16, wherein an isolated stereoisomeric form of a compound of formula Ia or Ib is administered.